

September 1, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

The summer has given us time to relax and recharge our batteries, and we hope it has done the same for our students. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year in our mathematics classes.

Math should prove to be an engaging and interesting class for all of us this year, and we want to share some background information as the school year begins. There are many ways to earn good grades besides quizzes and tests; homework is assigned at the end of each class, and counts as a major part of your grade. You earn full credit (100%) for homework completed on time. Work handed in late earns 75%, incomplete work is graded as 50%, and work not done earns no credit (0%). Incomplete or unfinished work can be completed within a week to earn a late grade of 75%.

A weekly problem will generally be assigned on Mondays and will be due on Fridays. This assignment will be a puzzle, a problem of the week, or another extended problem and will begin in mid-September.

We would like every student to come to class with a loose-leaf notebook supplied with graph paper. This makes it easy to remove/return homework sheets, check notes, and stay organized. If you buy paper without holes, we have a three-hole punch in class for students to use. All class work, as well as homework, should be done on graph paper and kept in the loose-leaf notebook. These will be collected and graded periodically. Calculators and rulers (metric and standard) will be supplied in class, but students should also have them at home.

In order to work efficiently with fractions and percents, 6<sup>th</sup> graders must be fluent with multiplication facts. We expect all students to score at least 90% on a 5 minute, 100 facts test. We will review in class, but students will need to study at home.

Whatever your achievement or enthusiasm level, we expect our students to be successful in math class this year, and we will do our best to make sure everyone reaches that goal. We will be available during 'X' block for students who need extra help because of absences, difficulty with new concepts, or perhaps because effort hasn't been the best. You may ask to come in, or you may be assigned to an 'X' period. If you ever have a concern or comment please feel free to call voice mail or email. We will answer your message promptly.

Our job is to help each student become a skillful, confident mathematician, and we will work to make that happen. Welcome to sixth grade.

Sincerely,

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We have read the letter introducing the sixth grade math program and are familiar with the guidelines for homework and the math supplies expected in class.

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(Date)

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(student signature)

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(parent signature)